

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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SUBJECT: MANPOWER AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING, MARCH 13-15

PASS LABOR DEPT FOR URSERY AND SEGALL; OMB FOR SHISKIN

REF: (A) MO(73)4, FEBRUARY 20 W/ ADDENDUM MARCH 12, 1973

(B) A-23

(C) M O(73)5, FEBRUARY 13

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. HIGHLIGHTS OF SESSION WERE
ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE OF COMMITTEE TO US PROPOSAL ON
ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY (REPORTED SEPTEL) AND
APPROVAL OF PROPOSALS OF WORKING PARTY ON SOCIAL
INDICATORS. PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON 1974
PROGRAM CENTERED ON RELATIVELY THEORETICAL FRENCH
PROPOSALS BUT INDICATIONS WERE THAT COMMITTEE WOULD
PLACE STRONG EMPHASIS ON SOCIAL INDICATORS, US
PROPOSAL ON WOMEN, FLEXIBILITY OF WORKING LIFE AND
INCOME TRANSFERS PROJECT. FORCEFUL US STATEMENT
ON NEED TO STUDY WAGE GAPS SHOULD KEEP THIS ITEM ON
AGENDA OF WORKING PARTY ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS:
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SECRETARIAT PROPOSALS FOR WP' S 1974 PROGRAM INCLUDED EFFECT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ON NATIONAL ECONOMIES, ON INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENT AND ON WORKERS' ATTITUDES. IN ABSENCE OF MSAC CHAIRMAN FALCHI (ITALY) ELECTION OF OFFICERS POSTPONED AND SESSION CHAIRED BY VICE- CHAIRMAN (US REP CHARLES STEWART, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR) . COMMITTEE AGREED FOLLOWING WOULD SERVE ON EXPANDED BUREAU IN NEXT YEAR: CANADA, DENMARK, FRANCE, JAPAN, LUXEMBOURG AND SPAIN. NEXT SESSION WILL TAKE PLACE JULY 10-12. END SUMMARY.

2. SOCIAL INDICATORS PROGRAM: COMMITTEE APPROVED BASIC LIST OF FUNDAMENTAL SOCIAL CONCERNS PROPOSED BY WP ON SOCIAL INDICATORS (REF A) AND DECIDED SECRETARIAT SHOULD REPHRASE LIST IN NEUTRAL RATHER THAN DIRECTIONAL LANGUAGE. SUBJECTIVE OR PERCEPTIVE INDICATORS WERE NOT AN ISSUE (REF B). MSAC ALSO WILL RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THAT LIST BE DERESTRICTED FOR WIDER CIRCULATION. APPROVAL OF LIST MADE POSSIBLE WHEN, IN FACE OF STRONG SUPPORT FOR NEUTRAL LANGUAGE, ESPECIALLY BY UK, FRANCE AND US, SCANDINAVIANS AGREED " WITH RELUCTANCE" TO REPHRASING. COMMITTEE APPROVED WP PROPOSAL FOR PHASE II (REF C) WITH LITTLE DISCUSSION, MOST OF WHICH CONSISTED OF SUPPORT FOR FASTER INTENSIVE PACE OF WORK, EVEN IF GREATER RESOURCES ARE NECESSARY. SECRETARIAT EXPECTS COUNCIL WILL MAKE FINAL DECISIONS ON MSAC RECOMMENDATIONS IN EARLY APRIL.

3. 1974 PROGRAM: PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION INTENDED TO HELP SECRETARIAT DRAFT PROPOSALS WHICH WILL BE SUBJECT OF FULL DEBATE AT JULY SESSION. COMMENTS ON FRENCH PROPOSALS, WHICH WERE ADDRESSED TO GENERAL ROLE OF MSA IN OECD RATHER THAN TO SPECIFIC PROJECTS (SEE MS/ D/73. 107), CONSISTED LARGELY OF COURTESY STATEMENTS BECAUSE MOST MEMBERS HAD NOT RECEIVED FRANCH PAPER EARLY ENOUGH FOR THOROUGH CONSIDERATION. AS FOR SPECIFIC PROJECTS IN 1974 PROGRAM, THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT FOR MORE INTENSIVE WORK ON SOCIAL INDICATORS, FOR US PROPOSAL ON WOMEN AND FOR FLEXIBILITY OF WORKING LIFE. UK RESERVED ITS POSITION ON ENTERPRISE MANPOWER MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL (MS/ M/203/423) ON GROUNDS PROJECT WENT BEYOND SCOPE AUTHORIZED BY THE COMMITTEE AND WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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MORE LIKELY TO BE COSTLY THAN SUCCESSFUL. DISCUSSION OF

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS PROGRAM ALLOWED SECRETARIAT (WEISZ)
TO SKETCH PROPOSALS FOR MAY MEETING OF WP AND TO REQUEST
FURTHER SUGGESTIONS FROM MEMBERS. WEISZ SPECIFICALLY
ASKED FOR GUIDANCE ON WHETHER COMPARISON OF WAGE GAPS
SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN PROGRAM; US RESPONDED WITH STRONG
STATEMENT URGING WORK BE DONE (THUS US NOW IN BETTER
POSITION TO FOLLOW UP AT MAY WP SESSION).
BROWN

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